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23 March 1949

PROPOSED REVISION OF ORE CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

Prepared by the Chief, Current Intelligence Group

1. G/CI thinking concerning the desirability of revising the present program for the publication of current intelligence is based upon two premises: (a) the present CIA Weekly Summary represents an unsatisfactory compromise in scope and treatment; and (b) the branch monthly "working papers" are published under highly dangerous circumstances at present and should, since a demand for them has been demonstrated, be legalized as genuine CIA publications.

2. The CIA Weekly Summary set out to be a TOP SECRET weekly review of the world situation, designed primarily for top-level policy readers who need to keep informed of emergent problems in general terms but who do not need to know the manifold details and complexities of such problems, as do working-level personnel. About a year ago, the CIA Weekly Summary was downgraded to SECRET and its distribution was broadened. This confronted G/CI with the necessity for seeking some compromise between its previous concept of the Weekly Summary and the new concept implicit in the lower classification and wider dissemination. G/CI has made strenuous efforts to reach a satisfactory compromise in these terms but has become convinced that none has been, or probably can be, attained. The present CIA Weekly Summary neither provides its top-level readers with a brief weekly estimate of the world situation nor provides its working-level readers with a detailed analysis of current problems. A separate handling of these disparate needs is indicated.

3. The branch monthly "working papers," which have in their separate existences found receptive audiences, are presently produced and disseminated by the individual branches. This arrangement does not provide CIA as a whole with adequate protection against the issuance of uncoordinated intelligence. Moreover, this arrangement does not guarantee that these publications will be subjected to the detached perspective and uniform presentation methods of the ORE units charged with the responsibility for the publication of finished CIA intelligence. The branch monthly "working papers" need, if they are to be continued, to be legalized and regularized.

4. In recognition of these circumstances, G/CI recommends that the CIA Weekly Summary be discontinued and the following adjustments made:

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(a) The CIA Daily Summary should carry, on a regular weekly basis, annexes which estimate briefly the current status of the key situations in the world;

(b) A CIA TOP SECRET Monthly Summary should be established which would be issued in weekly installments, area by area, throughout the month, which would contain a monthly review of the situation and the outlook for every country of the area in question, and which would be preceded by a brief estimate of the world situation as modified by the events of the preceding week;

(c) The Special Evaluation series should be employed more frequently to present brief estimates of new and emergent situation and should, insofar as possible, be used as the medium for filling urgent requests by top-level personnel.

5. G/CI believes that the proposed program for current intelligence publication would offer a satisfactory solution to the problem of keeping top-level and working-level personnel informed in terms suitable to each, provide greater flexibility in the adjustment of media to situations, and end the dangerous situation created by the branch monthly "working papers."

(a) The Daily Summary — In such a program the Daily Summary would continue to provide top-level readers with a brief summary of only those items of topmost significance and would also provide a brief statement of the weekly status of the most sensitive problems.

(b) The Monthly Summary — As described above, the Monthly Summary would provide the top-level reader with a brief weekly review and would provide the working-level reader with a detailed analysis of the status quo in his own and related areas. The Monthly Summary would also place at the disposal of the top-level reader a monthly reference work which would enable him to ascertain the general state of affairs in Lichtenstein, if he wanted to know.

(c) The Special Evaluation — Expansion of this series would provide the necessary medium for dealing with new situations, as opposed to the status report aspect of the annexes to the Daily Summary.

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